

PROSPECTUS:

The prospectus is designed to initiate the planning and review process for the Mile High Wetland Bank Phase II. Information provided in the prospectus will serve as the basis for establishing a mitigation banking instrument. The banking instrument will form a detailed agreement between the bank sponsor and the Corps of Engineers on issues such as accounting procedures, long-term management, site development, monitoring, remedial actions, financial assurances, performance standards, etc. Hard copies are available on request from the Denver Regulatory Office.

AUTHORITY:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344).

BANK SPONSOR:

Mile High Wetlands Group, LLC, 80 South 27th Avenue, Brighton CO 80601

PROJECT LOCATION:

The Mile High Wetland Bank site is positioned within the Beebe Draw drainage basin which originates at Barr Lake and flows north toward the South Platte River near Greeley. The southern edge of the Mile High Wetland Bank site begins roughly one mile downstream from the outlet of Barr Lake. The Beebe Draw flows northerly through the Bank site. The entire site is roughly two miles long and on average one-half mile wide. Size of the area approximates 600 acres.

The Bank is located in Adams County and occupies portions of Sections 1 and 12, Township 1 South, Range 66 West, and Section 6 Township 1 South, and Range 65 West.

PROPOSED ACTIVITY:

Create the Phase II area wetland of approximately 20.8 acres through grading and excavation. It consists of three distinct pieces of land that are directly adjacent to and surround the Phase I existing wetland: Area 1 (1.5 acres), Area 2 (9.1 acres) and Area 3 (10.2 acres).

no change from draft ?

PROJECT PURPOSE:

The primary purpose of the proposed Phase II is to create 20.8 acres of self-sustaining wetland system and upland buffer dominated by native non-invasive vegetation. The original and on-going purpose of the Mile High Wetland Bank is to create, enhance, and protect approximately 390 acres of high quality wetland. These wetlands can, in turn, be used as compensatory mitigation for impacts which result from activities authorized under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act that occur in the South Platte River drainage basin. Ultimately, the Bank efforts will contribute positively towards achievement of the Federal Wetland Program's "no net loss" goal.

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The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, WQCD-GWPS-B2, 4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, Colorado 80222-1530, will review the proposed project for state certification in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The certification, if issued, will express the State's opinion that the operations undertaken by the applicant will not result in a violation of applicable water quality standards. For further information, please contact the Colorado Water Quality Control Division, (303) 692-3500.

In compliance with the Endangered Species Act, a preliminary determination has been made that the described work will not affect species designated as threatened or endangered or adversely affect critical habitat. In order to complete our evaluation of this activity, comments are solicited from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other interested agencies and individuals.

The Omaha District, as the lead federal agency for determining compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will consult with the Colorado Historic Preservation Office, Federally recognized Indian Tribes, and other interested parties as appropriate. The Omaha District's initial review, based on currently available information, indicates there are no known historic properties within the permit area.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against the reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, wetlands, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the work on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 C.F.R. Part 230).

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting written comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments, both favorable and unfavorable, will be accepted, made a part of the record and will receive full consideration in subsequent actions on this application. Any agency or individual having an objection to the work should identify it as an objection with clear and specific reasons. All replies to the public notice should be sent to the **U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Denver Regulatory Office, 9307 South Wadsworth Blvd, Littleton, Colorado 80123-6901**. For additional information please contact **Matt Montgomery** at (303) 979-4120 or visit the **Denver Regulatory Office** web site at:

<http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-tl/pn/tlpublicnotices.html>

The District Engineer will consider requests for holding a public hearing, for the purpose of gathering additional information. Before the expiration date of this notice, anyone may request, in writing, that a public hearing be held. Requests for a public hearing should state specifically the reasons for holding a public hearing, and what additional information would be obtained. Should the District Engineer decide that additional information is required and a public hearing should be held, interested parties will be notified

of the date, time and location.

Comments received after the close of business on the expiration date of this public notice will not be considered.